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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION SERVICE 150 Broadway New York, 7, New York



YOUR FAMILY'S FOOD

For the Week of February 17, 1947

(Topics of the Week:

Market Facilities
Flentifuls

started....

ANN ONCER:	This is YOUR HAMILY'S FOCH a program in the public service
	presented by Station, in cooperation with the United
	States Department of Agriculture. These broadcasts are designed
	to keep you informed on factors affecting the family food supply.
	and our studio guest today is, of the
	Production and Marketing Administration in
	Garatinas, and what is they bit of paper you have
	thener
PMA:	Good (morning) (afternoon), This is a diagram of
	an ideal wholesale produce marketsort of a utopian plan.
ANNOUNCER:	A market? I didn't think anyone made plans for markets
	always thought they just "growed" like Topsy.
PMa:	That's just the trouble with the majority of city wholesale
	markets. Most of 'em have "growed" without expanding, if you
	follow me.
ANN CUNCER:	Sure vou mean the acreage is the same as it was when they
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PMA:

...Cnly now they re handling so much produce that there just 1sn't rocm for it all. Which reminds me...ever been to a whole-sale market during the rush hour?

ANNOUNCER:

Yes...that is, I don't know about the hour, but there was plenty of rush and confusion.

PMA:

Confusion is an understatement, so far as wholesale markets in most larger cities are concerned. And among sufferers from this condition is the consumer.

ANNGUNCER:

Perhaps a few explanations would be in order, _____. Most housewives never see a wholesale market, and might wonder just how it affects them.

PMA:

The wholesale markets I have in mind are those congested areas of a few blocks into which most of the city's fresh produce supply lands with a thud. Local retailers and jobbers, as well as some out-of-town buyers then swarm into these few blocks to buy the items they want to resell to housewives. Obviously, if the marketing facilities are inadequate and inefficient, cost mounts.

ANN JUNCER:

And we don't need three guesses to figure out who pays for these added costs.

PMA:

The consumer, of course. But the farmer is affected, too, don't forget. These outmoded facilities cut down his cash returns.

They create what the economists call a "spread" between the price the farmer receives for his produce, and the price the consumer pays.

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ANNOUNCER:

Yes...for years both consumers and farmers have been protesting the size of this "spread". Usually, though, it's blamed on a mysterious "middleman".

PMA:

The "middleman" is an all-inclusive term, referring to anyone who handles the produce on its way from farm to table. He performs a very necessary service, since few farmers can spend their time peddling their produce personally...and few consumers can get to the farm. No, the middleman doesn't cause that price spread --- it's the conditions under which the middleman has to work that are at fault.

.NN OUNCER:

Well why is it that so many cities, with all sorts of modern conveniences and efficiencies, still have these outmoded wholesale markets?

PMA:

I guess it's the nature of the husiness. You see, when our large cities were just villages, among the first things established was a market—place. Then, as the city grew up round the market—place, there was no room left for expansion...but by the same token, increasing amounts of produce had to flow through the market area to feed the increasing populations.

ANNOUNCER:

Ah...that explains why so many wholesale markets are located on high-priced land, often rubbing elbows with business districts.

PMA:

Exactly, And yet you can see how illogical that is. The people whom the market is supplying no longer live nearby—they only work there.

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ANNOUNCER:

I think you could bring all this close to home by tracing a given item from farm to table.

PMA:

All right, ______ Let's take oranges, since citrus fruit is coming to market in quantity now. We start with certain unavoidable costs...such as the freight charges from Florida to New Haven, Connecticut.

ANNOUNCER:

Why New Haven?

PM:

Because the U. S.Department of Agriculture has just completed a thorough study of that market, and we won't need to rely on guess-work. Also, the New Haven wholesale market is perhaps a good average place to talk about, since it's neither the largest nor the smallest. Neither is it the worst example...while at the same time it's sufficiently congested and inefficient to illustrate the point we're trying to make.

ANNOUNCER:

Ckay...you've made a case for using New Haven, Connecticut.

Let's start with the arrival of a freight-car load of oranges
at the market.ecafter we've paid the freight.

PMA:

And there's your first stumbling block. The freight car can't get to the market.

ANNOUNCER:

Oh, fine. What's the matter --- train wreck?

PMA:

No...it's just that the present wholesale market in New Haven ---and in many other cities --- lacks direct or even spur-track
rail connections.

ANNOUNCER:

Hm-m-m. I detect an item of added expense cropping up already.

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PMA:

You certainly do. The oranges have got to be unloaded from the freight car, reloaded onto a truck, driven to the wholesalers place of business, and unloaded onto his display floor —

if he has one. Actually, the oranges would probably end up —

temporarily, at least — on the sidewalk in front of his place

of business.

ANNOUNCER:

one trucking charge — and the loading and unloading costs connected with it.

PMA:

Right you are. Well, now the carload of oranges is arriving at the wholesale house. A retail grocer comes along and buys 100 crates. But he can't back his own truck up to load them on because the other truck is still making trips from the railread. And besides, the retail merchant left his truck in front of the place where he bought some celery, and that wholesale house is now getting a delivery of broccoli and the retailer can't get his truck out. And anyway, there are so many other small and large trucks around that it would take him three-quarters of an hour to move his truck a block.

ANN DUNCER:

I'm not sure I follow you through all that. But what I want to know is: how does he get his oranges back to his store?

PMA:

Cne way is to hire a couple of men with hand-trucks — you know, those two-wheeled gadgets the porters use in railroad stations— to carry his 100 crates ever to his truck. They could handle perhaps three a trip.

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ANNOUNCER: Cuch...oranges just went up a nickel a dozen!

PMA:

Sure. And don't forget. In the meantime, the wholesaler has sold varying quantities of these oranges to other retailers, who are trying to take them away. Undoubtedly the wholesaler also had some grapefruit which had arrived earlier, and people are trying to get in and out of his one narrow door to get their purchases. And everyone is in everyone else's way and trucks, horses, and people are trying to find a spot to move in, and —

ANNOUNCER:

Whoa; That's enough. It's almost unbelievable that any produce could get in and out of such a madhouse.

PMA:

Frankly, I've often wondered that it does. Somehow, though, by sheer persistence, things finally get to the retail stores.

But the produce has been handled so many times that not only is the cost higher than it would be otherwise, but quality has suffered. Cranges may survive the ordeal, but huge quantities of more perishable items can't take the punishment.

ANNOUNCER:

Can't something be done?

FMA:

Certainly. The survey of the New Haven market that I mentioned is one of a series being done by the Marketing Facilities Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration, in cooperation with local groups. These surveys reveal the exact needs, and include plans for either remodeling present facilities, or establishing a new market entirely. Of course, it will be up to local marketing officials, trade groups, and city planners to put U. S. Department of Agriculture recommendations into effect.

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ANNOUNCER:

What are some of the suggestions for New Haven? They'd be a clue to the needs in other cities, too.

PMA:

A new wholesale fruit, vegetable, pourtry, and egg market was recommended for New Haven.

ANNOUNCER:

The works, eh?

PMA:

Yes...plus a new location, since the present area can't be expanded economically. The new market would have modern wholesale stores with front and rear loading platforms, direct rail connections, and adequate refrigeration. Market buildings would be located on wide streets, thus eliminating the waste of time from traffic congestion. The survey shows that such a market would result in savings of \$100,000 a year in cartage, hauling, and reduced spoilage.

ANNOUNCER:

Wow...that's a lot of money.

PMA:

But not fantastic by any means. Some surveys show savings up to three hundred thousand.

ANNOUNCER:

But, of course, it will also cost huge sums to build new markets.

PMA:

Right again. But these market improvements are long-range programs in the public interest. In fact, the Federal Works Agency has recognized that plans for new markets have at place in any public building program. For the entire United States, it's estimated that 100 million dollars could be spent economically in the erection and improvement of marketing facilities. Not only would this sum be returned in the savings we've mentioned, but the cities involved would be richer by the elimination of an

 PMA: (continued)

area which is congested, dangerous, smelly, noisy, and an eye-sere,

ANNOUNCER:

Golly...there must be an adjective you've forgotten, but I can't think of one at the moment.

PMA:

Well; everything I've said isn't just some little pet peeve of my own. Congress recognized this problem by enacting the Research and Marketing Act at the last session. This provides for cocperative projects in marketing services and research between Federal and State Covernments. And in signing that bill into law, Fresident Truman called the efficient marketing of enough of the right kinds of food and farm products our "greatest peacetime agricultural problem,"

FRICUNCER:

Meantime, though, our listeners have a problem, too --- the family's foods

TMA:

I get it...you're just hinting that it's time to reveal the weekly plentiful foods list.

ANNOUNCER:

That's right,

PMA:

I'd like to take just a minute first, though, to say a word on the coffee situation.

ANNOUNCER:

Don't tell me there's samething wrong with it... I must have my daily coffee quota.

FMA:

Nothing wrong at all. In fact, coffee drinking has increased to a new record. Import figures for last year reveal that we averaged better than $19\frac{1}{2}$ pounds per person. Just compare that with the 12 pounds we were allowed during the rationing period of 1942 and '43.



ANN TUNCER:

That must put us pretty well ahead as a coffee-drinking nation.

PMA:

Well, it's expected that we'll take four-fifths of the world export supply this year.

ANNOUNCER:

And that must add up to a lot of coffee,

IMA:

20½ million bags, to be exact. eat 132 pounds of coffee per bag. But now, I guess weld better get to those plentiful foods.

ANN: UNCER:

Ckay ... I'll start with potatoes and onions.

FMA:

That's a good start. I'll add the roct crops...you'll find carrots, parsnips, and turnips plentiful on all markets....and come places report good supplies of beets, too.

NOUNCER:

My guess is that of the fruits, apples and citrus are still on the good supply side.

PMA:

That's right, ______. Now the greens situation is somewhat irregular. Most markets report kale and spinach, while some have lots of collards. But you'll be sure of finding at least one of those at any market. (h, I don't want to overlook cabbage. That's plentiful everywhere. And some markets have good supplies of broccoli. And finally, sweet potaties are reported on most markets.

ANNOUNCER:

And thanks very much for bringing us your news about the family's food. Friends, our studio guest today was

of the Production and Marketing Administration's office in

